

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1950

No. 2 (North Craven) Division

COMPRISING :

Bowland Rural District.

Sedbergh Rural District.

Settle Rural District.



By D. P. LAMBERT, M.D., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

Divisional Medical Officer

SKIPTON :
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1951.

To the Chairman and Members, Bowland Rural District Council.
To the Chairman and Members, Sedbergh Rural District Council.
To the Chairman and Members, Settle Rural District Council.
To the County Medical Officer, West Riding County Council.

“Public Health is purchasable ; within natural limitations a community can determine its own death rate”.

H. M. Biggs.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of No. 2. (North Craven) Division for the year 1950.

Social Conditions

No. 2 Division has twice the area and half the population of the average Public Health Division, and is the most Rural Division in in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Its most important industry is Agriculture ; and though there are other industries in the Division, quarrying and lime-burning, textile manufacturing, paper-making paint-making and the tourist trade, none is on a large enough scale to alter its rural character.

The prosperity of the Division stands or falls with the prosperity of agriculture, and the end of 1950 saw agriculture in a reasonably sound position. It was not a good year for weather, but most farmers managed to make the best of what sunshine there was, and if the haycrop was not all it could have been neither was it as bad as had once been feared. Other branches of farming had their difficulties too. They always have difficulties ; but on most farms they were over-come fairly successfully.

This relative prosperity of agriculture depends to a large degree on Government policy. Withdrawal of support from the home market could reverse the position overnight ; and older farmers with memories of the bad years between the wars are still troubled, and are loth to plan on the assumption that present policy, and the prosperity dependent on it, will last.

There is no unemployment in the industry : the trouble is shortage of workers. Wages in agriculture, though they have risen considerably compared with wages in the lean years, are still low in comparison with the wages paid to workers in factory industries ; the work is harder and the hours are longer ; whilst the prefabricated gaieties of town life attract some men who might otherwise have preferred country work and country ways.

Unfortunately the advantages of town life are not confined to luxuries and entertainments ; the country lags behind in much more vital matters, in the provision of pure water, in modern sanitation, and in medical and socio-medical services. Until fundamental sanitary safeguards have been provided in every village, and until the

the villager, his wife, and his children have reasonable access to clinics and to consultant sessions it is idle to talk of a comprehensive health service. No one wishes to cramp the work of the great hospitals, or to suggest that a clinic should be opened on every village green ; but when attendance for consultation means, as it does in this Division, an absence from home and from work of twelve hours or more it means also such a disproportionate sacrifice of time and of convenience that in the case of many men, and of almost all mothers with young children, the facilities are as good as denied. Concentration of medical work in large centres is administratively convenient, it makes for efficient work and for economy : dispersion is attended by administrative difficulty, by some loss in the completeness of the service provided, and by greater cost to the public purse. But unless a degree of dispersion can be effected, whether by multiplied consultation centres, or by mobile clinics, or by some other means those who live and work in the country will continue to be deprived of medical services essential for their full health. Agriculture is fundamental. On the successful cultivation of the top spit of soil not merely civilisation but human life itself wholly depends ; towns can produce everything, except food ; the need to provide for the health and welfare of the countryman is one of the most urgent needs of today..

Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics are shown in Appendix I. They are calculated on relatively small numbers, and changes are bound to appear large ; one death can make a death rate seem alarmingly high ; and this should be remembered in interpreting the figures. Once again there has been no maternal mortality. Of the 9 infant deaths all but one were due to prematurity or congenital malformation. The exact cause of the remaining death was not satisfactorily explained. Post-mortem examination was not carried out. There were 5 still-births.

Sanitary Conditions

Changes have been small, but all in the direction of improvement ; and there has been no regression in any part of the work, unless perhaps in housing, where dilapidation does seem to be gaining on new construction and on repairs.

Statutory inspections have been carried out by the Councils' Inspectors, whose reports are printed as Appendix II. The Statistical parts of these reports have once again been printed in one table. All through the year I have received full, willing and invaluable help from the Sanitary Inspectors, and am grateful for it.

Staffing, and the allocation of duties to staffs varies in the three Districts ; and this should be remembered when the Reports are compared.

Water Supplies

There was no shortage of water in 1950. Any troubles were caused by excess rather than by deficiency of rainfall. When there is heavy rain impurities are washed into reservoirs and springs ; water supplies become contaminated, and even when purification plants are provided they sometimes prove inadequate to deal with a sudden heavy pollution. Most of the pollution is of animal or agricultural origin. When the fields are being manured water samples are often bad. As long as human contamination gains no access to the supplies there is no grave danger, though it would undoubtedly be better if no pollution gained access to the water supplies at all.

Once again there has been occasional evidence of contamination of water supplies during distribution, attributable in almost all cases to old or faulty mains. Where water can leak out pollutions can leak in.

The survey of the Division's water supplies has been continued, and watch is kept on all main sources. The co-operation of the Public Health Laboratory has been invaluable.

Bowland : The Regional Water Scheme is still awaiting Ministerial Sanction. It is hoped that a Public Inquiry will be held soon, and that work will be put in hand thereafter. Meanwhile the water supplies at Bashall Eaves, Gisburn, Gisburn Forest, Paythorne, and Rimington (Stopper Lane) are all sources of anxiety. Work has begun on the Eaves Hall—Grindleton connection.

Sedbergh : There have been no changes during the year. The chlorinator for the Dent supply is still waiting for its shed to be built. A proposed extension of supply from the Railway source at Garsdale Head has not been possible. Railway needs are too great to provide a dependable surplus for other potential users.

Settle : The Helwith Bridge and the Langcliffe water supply schemes were all but completed during the year. Small works at Bentham were successfully carried out, and by the end of the year consistently good results were being obtained. The Thornton—Westhouse Masongill scheme is still held up by legal difficulties and by an ancient right obstinately maintained.

Sewerage and Drainage

Steady small improvements have been made, and old systems have been repaired or reconditioned. The details will be found in Appendix II.

Bowland : The problem of river erosion at the Grindleton sewage field became acute, and most vigorous attempts were made to get permission to begin works to control the river ; but by the end of 1950 permission had not yet been given. The greatest need for modern sanitary disposal methods is in Slaidburn, West Bradford, and Newton-in-Bowland.

Sedbergh : A modern disposal plant at Sedbergh has been planned, but sanction to proceed with it had not been obtained by the end of the year. Work however was started on a small scheme at Garsdale Head. An extension to the overstrained Sedbergh sewage disposal works was planned, and will be gone ahead with as soon as possible.

Settle : The costly repair to the broken sewer at Ingleton was completed. Plans to provide sewerage at Horton-in-Ribblesdale were completed, and permission to proceed with them was being sought at the year's end. There is need to extend the Hellifield sewage disposal system, and to review the position in Malhamdale. The Settle—Giggleswick—Langcliffe works require some modification.

Refuse Disposal

In all districts there were small but welcome improvements in Refuse Collection and disposal.

Housing

Though some new houses have been built there is still an acute shortage of houses in the Division, and I can only repeat the comments which I made in my last report.

“As you are only too well aware, there is an acute shortage of houses in the Division, and consequent overcrowding. There is also much sharing of houses with in-laws, or with other families, and all the friction and exasperation which such arrangements inevitably bring. Further, large numbers of people are living in houses that are unfit for human habitation, many of these houses were built two hundred years ago or more, and are fundamentally ill-constructed. They are dark, damp, low-ceilinged and badly ventilated ; the rooms are small and the staircases are awkward ; some are in high state of dilapidation, and a few are structurally dangerous. But such is the shortage of houses that if even the worst of these dwellings falls vacant, by the following morning the owner will have at least three applications for it. This is the property that delights visitors and gives an old world charm to our villages : nevertheless, it is not fit to live in. Such old property can be saved, and made decently habitable, but only at very great cost, a cost certainly not less than the building a new house. For historical, artistic, or even sentimental reasons it may be desirable to save some of these old houses ; though I feel that the architects of today can design houses every bit as beautiful, and vastly more convenient to live in. That again would cost more money than houses built to a standard utility specification, but it might be money very well spent.

Not all our newer houses are beautiful, or free from sanitary faults. Some show an accumulation of minor defects, and here and there a minor defect has been allowed to become a major one. Labour and building materials have been short, permits have been trouble-

some to obtain, and often landlords have been unwilling or unable to spend the necessary money. With rents fixed at 1940 levels and costs as they are today even a small repair can consume a year's rental and on any large repair a landlord may be heavily out of pocket. Some have given up all attempt to save their property and are content to watch it fall a prey to wind and weather.

As even a bad house is better than no house at all, only houses which are dangerously unfit have been proceeded against, and the building of new houses has been pushed on as fast as possible. Repairing has been urged wherever possible, especially where a minor repair, say to a roof will save a house from rapidly deteriorating to the dangerously unfit category.

There is need for more houses specially built for the aged. Many old people live in big houses that have become a burden to them and, if such were available, would gladly move to smaller more convenient ones, releasing their big houses for people with large families ; though in some cases sentimental ties are too strong and old folks refuse to leave their houses, even though they can manage them no longer".

Towards the end of the year a suggestion was made that a Housing Society might be formed, to work on the lines of the Blakeney Housing Society in Norfolk, of which the good work in reconditioning old property has been widely recognised ; but by the end of the year there had not been time to go into the matter fully enough for decisions to be taken.

Hygiene of Food

Milk : During the year there has been close and valuable co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary inspectors. In one case an order was served requiring the pasteurisation of milk reasonably suspected of containing tubercle bacilli, and the producer voluntarily surrendered his Tuberculin Tested License. In another case a tuberculous cow, the milk of which was being sold to cafes in Settle, was slaughtered.

More producers are producing Tuberculin Tested Milk, and tubercle infected animals are being more and more concentrated in non-designated herds, a fact which makes the practice of taking "accommodation milk" from other than attested herds reprehensibly unsafe.

Meat : The results of meat inspections are summarised in appendix III. The condition of the slaughter house in Settle is not satisfactory, and appropriate approaches have been made to the Authorities concerned.

Food Handling : The Ministry of Food's Model Byelaws were adopted by all three Districts, but it would be rash to assume that all was well. A long campaign of education and of persuasion will be necessary before food handling will become safe. The health of the community is literally in the hands of its food-preparers and

food servers, and if they could be persuaded of the real need for frequent washing of their hands, especially after every visit to the toilet, much would be done by that means alone.

Infectious Disease

There was not much Infectious Disease in 1950. There was a small outbreak of a mild form of whooping cough in Sedbergh and Dent, which later spread rather more extensively in the western part of Settle Rural District.

Towards the end of the year an epidemic of measles started in Malhamdale and in mid-Ribblesdale, areas that had not had much measles for some time.

There was one case of Poliomyelitis, near Bentham. It occurred in an isolated cottage, and no certain source of infection could be traced. A possible line of inquiry was followed up, but the trail was soon lost in Bentham Auction Mart.

The long-term epidemiological studies of measles and whooping cough are being continued.

Notifications of infectious disease from practitioners are reasonably good. Of the practitioners who reside in the Division twelve notify their cases promptly and fully, one notifies them fully but not always promptly and two never notify cases at all.

Tuberculosis

There has been no significant change in the position with regard to tuberculosis. There is not a high incidence in the Division, but unfortunately those cases that do occur often go downhill more rapidly than cases who are exposed to the more or less constant tuberculosis risk of an urban environment.

During the year 4 selected children were vaccinated with B.C.G. vaccine.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary, 54, Keighley Road, Skipton, is open on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 to 12 a.m. The Tuberculosis Officer also holds sessions at Mr. Batty's, Market Place, Settle on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

The co-operation of the Dr. W. H. Hamilton, the Chest Physician has been cordial and of the greatest value.

Venereal Disease

There is very little venereal disease in this Division. During the year I have been informed of 3 cases all under treatment. A Social Worker in Venereal Disease is shared with three neighbouring Divisions.

There are Venereal Disease Clinics at the Victoria Hospital, Keighley, and at the Victoria Hospital, Burnley, open as follows :

KEIGHLEY :

Men — Thursdays, 5 — 7-30 p.m.

Women and Children — Tuesdays, 5 — 7-30 p.m.

BURNLEY :

Men — Mondays and Thursdays, 5-30 — 6-30 p.m.

Women and Children — Mondays, 10 — 11 a.m.

Fridays, 11 — 12 a.m.

Fridays, 5-30 — 6-30 p.m.

The following practitioners undertake the treatment of Venereal Disease :

Dr. D. B. Hyslop, Duke Street, Settle. Tel. Settle 2100.

Dr. D. Scott-Jackson, Briarwood, Sedbergh. Tel. Sedbergh 18.

Ante-Natal Care

It has been found that since the coming of the National Health Service expectant mothers prefer to be attended at their own homes by their own doctors, and the Ante-Natal Clinics have been closed.

The services of consultants are available for any practitioners who require them, either at hospital out-patient departments, or if a patient is unfit to travel, in the patients' own home. X-ray examinations are similarly available, though only at hospitals :

General Hospital, Skipton. Tel. Skipton 244.

Victoria Hospital, Keighley, Tel. Keighley 3708.

Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Lancaster. Tel. Lancaster 1200.

Dental Treatment is arranged either by the County Dental Officers or through private dental practitioners.

An Ante-natal Hostel, with a limited number of beds, is open at Brighouse for expectant mothers who require rest but not active medical treatment. Applications for admission are made through the Divisional Health Office.

Standard maternity outfits for use at confinements are provided free. Stocks are held by all midwives, and at the Divisional Health Office.

Midwifery

In this Division the midwifery service is combined with the Home Nursing Service. Nurse-Midwives are available as follows :

Grindleton : The Syke — three. Tel. Chatburn 244.

Hellifield : Central Mews — one. Tel. Hellifield 214.

Settle : 4 Ingfield Estate — one. Tel. Settle 2155.

Ingleton : Hollybank, — two. Tel. Ingleton 254.

Bentham : Springroyde — one. Tel. Bentham 291.

Sedbergh : 2 Havera — two. Tel. Sedbergh 138.

Kettlewell : Manor View — one. Tel. Kettlewell 250.

(For Littondale — by arrangement with Division, 1, Skipton)

Arrangements for admission to the hospitals for confinements are made through the Divisional Health Office. The following hospitals serve the Division :

Skipton : General Hospital. Tel. Skipton 244.

Skipton : Cawder Ghyll Maternity Home. Tel. Skipton 52.

Keighley : St. John's Hospital. Tel. Keighley 3248.

It is essential to apply in good time ; cases are many and accommodation is short.

The provision of a small Maternity Unit within the Divisional boundaries has been strongly urged, and it is understood that the Leeds Regional Hospital Board has accepted this proposal in principal.

Post Natal Care

There is limited accommodation in the Yorkshire Home for Mothers and Babies at Harrogate for mothers suffering from the after effects of confinements, and for babies over three weeks and under seven months old. The Home is closed in the winter. Applications for admission can be made through the Divisional Health Office.

Child Welfare

There are whole-time Health Visitors for all parts of the Division, except Bentham, where the duties of Health Visitor are combined with those of the District Nurse and Midwife.

During the year a Child Welfare Centre was opened in Sedbergh, and centres with doctor and Nurse in attendance are now open at the following places.

Bentham : Town Hall, on alternate Tuesdays from 2 — 4 p.m.

Ingleton : Literary Institute, on alternate Tuesdays from
2 — 4 p.m.

Settle : St. John's Methodist School, on alternate Thursdays
2 — 4 p.m.

Waddington : St. Helen's School, on alternate Thursdays
from 2 — 4 p.m.

Gisburn : Literary Institute, on alternate Tuesdays from
1-30 — 3-30 p.m.

Sedbergh : Masonic Hall, on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from
2 — 4 p.m.

Further thought has been given to the possibility of using a Mobile Clinic to reach the remoter parts of the Division, and draft schemes have been drawn up which can be put into operation as soon as a Mobile Clinic can be provided. It is understood that the need for such a facility has been approved in principle.

There is limited accommodation for children up to five years of age in a Residential Nursery at Leadenhall Grange, Harrogate. Applications for admission are dealt with at the Divisional Health Office.

School Medical Service

A full programme of inspections could not be carried out, because for eleven out of the twelve months of the year there was no Assistant County Medical Officer available for this Division. On the whole the health and nutrition of the children is good. Where necessary, specialist opinion, and treatment can be made available. Because of the shortage of specialist staff, consultations cannot be arranged as regularly and as frequently as one would like, but it is hoped that one day this difficulty will be overcome too.

It is greatly regretted that because of resignations from the staff the School Dental Service has been reduced to almost complete ineffectiveness, though the coming of a private dental practitioner to Settle has been of service to the children, as well as to adults.

Details of the work done by the School Medical Service are shown in Appendix V.

Home Help Service

There has been a slow increase in the number of Home Helps. At the end of the year twelve part-time workers were available. The difficulty is this : that most of the women who are willing to do this kind of work want full-time employment, but in a scattered population like ours there is not work for a full time home help in any one township, so helpers seek and obtain whole-time employment elsewhere.

To obtain the services of a Home Help application should be made to the Divisional Office, on a form obtainable there. The form asks for details of the applicant's income and savings ; and if these are above a certain figure the applicant is required to pay part of the cost of the Home Help, or even the whole cost. The service is only given free for those who cannot afford to pay for it. Many applicants strongly dislike filling up the form. They do not object to paying, as much as they object to disclosing particulars of their income and their savings.

Most of the Home Helps have been employed in acute emergencies and for confinement, and only a few to help the aged infirm and the chronic sick, though it is here that the need is probably greatest.

Care of the Aged

Hostels are available in the West Riding for such aged persons as wish to live in them, but only provided that they are sufficiently able-bodied to need no special medical or nursing care. It is, of course, precisely these people who can get along quite comfortably at home without trouble to themselves or to their families. For those who are infirm as well as old or for the chronic sick there is no adequate provision. The Stone Bower, Burton-in-Lonsdale was provisionally approved as a hostel for the Aged.

Official Welfare schemes can do much for old people, and could do more, but there is probably no field of human activity where there is so much room left for voluntary assistance as that of the care of the aged. Small frequent personal services are what they need most, and these can be supplied by voluntary helpers better than by the impersonal regularity of official machinery no matter how wisely and humanely it is administered. Towards the end of the year steps towards the formation of a committee of voluntary helpers had been taken.

Care and After Care of Patients Discharged from Hospital.

Arrangements are made to provide the services of a nurse or of a Health Visitor for such patients discharged from Hospital as may need such assistance. Except for school children and for patients discharged from mental hospitals there have been few applications for this service. Hospitals do not seem to realise the help they can get from the Public Health Department, and that it will be gladly made available for the asking.

Care of the Blind

There are 56 cases of registered blindness. A Home Teacher is available for patients who can profit from her visits.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Of 368 children born 1949 only 51 had been vaccinated by the end of 1950 : a figure that is too low for safety in the age of Air travel. Vaccination is performed free by all general practitioners.

Of 368 children born in 1949 only 119 had been immunised by the end of 1950. Immunisation is carried out free by general practitioners, by child welfare centre doctors, and by the School Medical Service staff.

Home Nursing

The Home Nursing Services is combined with the Midwifery Service. During the year 13,849 visits were paid to 1,955 patients.

Ambulance Services

Ambulances for ordinary cases are provided at the following centres :

Clitheroe : Tel. Clitheroe 154.

Sedbergh : Tel. Sedbergh 49 (Day) 67 (Night).

Settle : Tel. Settle 3194.

One day it is hoped to be able to control these separate branches of the Ambulance Service from one depot, when, with the aid of wireless telephony between depot and ambulances a telephone call to the depot will ensure the speediest possible arrival of an ambulance at the place of need.

Whilst this service is efficient and economical as a transport undertaking it is unsatisfactory that patients have sometimes to spend as much as twelve or even fifteen hours away from home. Part of the delay occurs at Hospitals and Clinics, but part of it is due to detours to pick up other patients, and to the waiting necessary till the last patient is ready for the ambulance.

Mental Health Service

A Social Worker in Mental Health is shared between this Division and No. 1. (Skipton) Division. Routine inspections of mental defectives are carried out. In addition, touch is kept with Mental Hospitals to which patients are sent and from which they are discharged. There is great need for additional provision of institutional care for mental defectives, especially for those most heavily afflicted. A list of the numbers and grades of mental defectives in this area is shown in Appendix V.

Health Education

Apart from the constant work of the health visitors and nurses, and the work done at the Child Welfare Centres, no special effort has been made in Health Education. Unless the interest roused by special displays can be followed up and maintained their value is fleeting, and very doubtfully worth the cost of arranging them, especially in a rural area where few can hope to see them.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. P. LAMBERT.

APPENDIX I.

VITAL STATISTICS 1950

	Estimated Population	Births			Deaths			Deaths under 1 yr.			Still Births		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Sedbergh	3,926	16	37	53	23	23	46	1	—	1	2	—	2
Settle ...	14,350	117	101	218	78	83	161	5	2	7	—	4	4
Bowland ...	4,954	30	34	64	41	34	75	—	1	1	3	1	4
Totals	23,230	163	172	335	142	140	282	6	3	9	5	5	10

CRUDE RATES

	Sedbergh	Settle	Bowland	Total
Total Live and Still Births	55	222	68	345
Birth	13.5	15.2	12.9	14.4
Death	11.7	11.2	15.1	12.1
Infective and Para. Dis. Exc. Tub. but including Syph. and other V.D.	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis All Forms	0.25	—	—	0.04
Cancer	0.76	1.46	1.41	1.33
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ...	1.78	1.88	3.23	2.15
Heart and Circulatory	6.11	5.37	7.87	6.03
Respiratory Diseases	1.02	0.28	0.81	0.52
Maternity Mortality	—	—	—	—
Infant Motality	19	32	16	27
Still Births	36	18	59	29

APPENDIX II.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORTS

Bowland

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I hereby submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1950.

Notices Served

In many cases owners of property, have on receipt of notices, given instructions to contractors to carry out the required works. The position with regard to labour and materials has, however, been so bad that many urgent requirements have been delayed for some time before completion. This has entailed much extra work in urging contractors to complete work in hand.

Tents, Vans and Sheds

In beautiful country districts like this, there is always the tendency for this type of dwelling to become a nuisance through being too numerous. A careful watch has been kept, and a number of caravans which have overstayed the required period were removed on request.

The more permanent types which have been established for a number of years and which are all licensed, are kept in a quite clean and tidy condition.

Rivers and Streams

Periodical inspections have been made throughout the year, and the only unsatisfactory conditions found were caused by a large septic tank at Horton, and liquid manure tank at Bashall Eaves. These were found to be overflowing directly into streams. In both cases the nuisances were remedied forthwith.

Milk Retailers

Several samples of milk intended for retail delivery have been taken. Of these, six were analysed for cleanliness, and five were biologically tested for the presence of tuberculosis. All the samples were found to be satisfactory.

Water Supplies

The piped supplies, both Council owned, and privately owned, have generally kept a high standard of purity throughout the year, as will be seen in the Table (in Appendix). The only unsatisfactory reports in the whole of the piped supplies in the district, have been Bashall Eaves, Slaidburn, Stopper Lane and Tagglesmire.

Bashall Eaves

As reported to the Council earlier in the year, my opinion is, that this water, coming as it does from shallow springs in cultivated and pasture land, cannot be considered suitable for domestic use unless it is first chlorinated.

Slaidburn

This is generally water of a high standard of purity and when an unusually bad report was received, the cause of the trouble was sought. Samples were taken at various places on the supply main between the springs and the village. When the results of these samples were received, it was obvious that a serious deterioration in purity occurred in a small valley between two points on the pipe line. A detailed examination of the water main in the valley revealed a flushing valve which had not been used for some considerable time, this valve was turned on and water allowed to flush through for many hours. Samples subsequently taken were found to be satisfactory.

Stopper Lane

This supply, which serves twelve properties, has never been consistently satisfactory, therefore all the owners were approached with a view to the houses, etc., being coupled to the Council's Rimington main. Permission for the Council to do this was obtained, and work is to be put in hand in the near future.

Tagglesmire

As reported last year this supply, which is fairly pure, is contaminated in the supply line over the moor. This reveals the urgency for the early adoption of the Regional Scheme.

Housing

During the year four new houses were completed. One (Swedish Timber) by the Council and three by private owners. Three more Swedish Timber houses were practically completed at the end of the year.

There have been no new overcrowding cases brought to official notice ; one of the existing cases has now been relieved by the allocation of a Council House to the family ; two more cases will be relieved on completion of the Swedish Timber houses.

Housing repairs have been required at nine houses, and in seven cases the repairs have been carried out ; the remaining ones are in the hands of contractors and their completion is expected early in the new year.

Slaughterhouses and Food Inspection

Meat comes into this area from the public abattoirs at Clitheroe and Skipton. The attention of the Skipton abattoir authorities has been drawn to the condition of meat when it reaches this area. Owing to the long distance travelled, and the over-crowded condition of the delivery vans, it was found that in two instances some of the meat, when delivered was unfit for human consumption. This emphasises the great care that is required to ensure that meat is properly cooled before loading, and that proper spacing in the vans is carried out.

There is one Ministry of Food slaughterhouse in this district at which the slaughtering of pigs is undertaken.

Food Production Including Ice Cream

Twenty-five premises in the district are registered for this purpose, and of these fourteen are for the sale of ice cream, and one for ice cream manufacture.

Earlier in the year the ice cream manufacturing premises were brought up to date :- water laid on, washing sink fixed, drainage provided, and a heat treatment plant installed.

The new Byelaws with regard to food handling, and the Codes of Practice which were adopted by this Council in October, will be of great assistance in securing the best conditions possible in food production and its allied trades.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed [if known]				
Number inspected				750
All diseases except Tuberculosis :-				
Whole carcasses condemned				8
Carcasses of which some part of the organ was condemned				11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis				2.66
Tuberculosis only :-				
Whole carcasses condemned				1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned				20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis				2.8

Rodent Control

Several farms, and the Council's tips have received treatment during the year, and in one or two instances substantial kills have been recorded. Test baiting of sewers has also been carried out : these proved that the sewers were practically rodent-free.

Scavenging

The scavenging of the district has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner and very few complaints have been received.

Earlier in the year scavenging of a portion of Bowland Forest Lower Division was undertaken.

I would, however, urge that the sewerage of Slaidburn and West Bradford, be put in hand as soon as practicable. This would be a means of greatly reducing the costs of night soil removal, and would also be a large contribution to the health of these parishes.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentleman,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. R. OVEREND, M.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.

SETTLE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting the details for the Annual Report, I would refer briefly to the following matters.

Tents, Vans, and Sheds

This class of dwelling was seasonal and did not show any increase on the previous year. No nuisance was found.

Water Supplies

At Helwith Bridge and Langcliffe the works of improvement approved last year were commenced but not complete at the end of the year.

Regarding the Westhouse/Masongill supply the scheme was still held up by failure to reach agreement with one riparian owner but a draft order was submitted to the Ministry of Health for the compulsory acquisition of the water rights.

134 samples were sent for bacteriological examination and three for chemical analysis.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

An application was submitted to the Ministry of Health for sanction to a loan of £15,000 for the purpose of constructing a sewerage system and disposal works at Horton-in-Ribblesdale. A public inquiry is to be held in the New Year.

Housing

During the year 32 new houses were completed (28 by the Council and 4 by private enterprise). Building licences were issued for 3 houses to be erected by private enterprise. The following table gives brief details of the post war housing programme.

No. of houses allocated :-

1946.....	24
1947.....	10
1948.....	20
1949.....	34
1950.....	27.....115

No of houses completed 64

No. of houses under construction 42

At the end of the year there were on the register 455 applicants of whom 192 were living in apartments.

The position regarding statutory overcrowding was as follows :-

No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year ... 13

No. of families dwelling therein 15

No. of persons dwelling therein 99

No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 4

No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 9

No. of persons concerned in such cases 52

Under the Housing Act 1949, (Section 20) one proposal was approved for an estimated expenditure of £595.

Milk Supply

Retail samples of milk were taken as follows :-

	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory
Ordinary Milk	27	3
Tuberculin Tested Milk	8	—
Accredited Milk	1	—

Under the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949, five dealer's licences were issued to deal in Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Food Supply, Slaughter House, and Meat

The Ministry of Food has a central slaughter house at Settle where slaughtering is carried out, and one other slaughter house is licensed and used for the slaughter of "cottagers pigs".

During the year 173 visits were made and the following table gives details of the work carried out

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Numbers killed	647	163	27	2255	56
Numbers inspected	647	163	27	2255	56
All diseases except Tuberculosis :-					
Whole carcasses condemned		24	20	44	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned		493	1	107	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis		63.7	77.7	6.7	3.6
Tuberculosis only :-					
Whole carcasses condemned		25	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned		161	—	—	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis		23.0	3.7	—	10.7

During the year the Council adopted byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping, and delivery of food, and Codes of Practice were in preparation to amplify these byelaws.

Of the 22 samples of ice cream taken for the methylene blue test, 6 were unsatisfactory.

Rats and Mice Destruction

The contract with the County Agricultural Executive Committee for the destruction of rats on the Council's properties was continued and a contribution of £60 was received from the Ministry of Agriculture for participation in their scheme. The Council resolved to appoint an additional workman to carry out the work next year by direct labour. Such infestations as were found were very light.

Scavenging

In consequence of the decision of the Council to carry out the Scavenging of Austwick by direct labour, refuse is now collected from all the populated areas of the district by this system, giving a 10 to 14 days service.

Refuse is disposed of by tipping at various sites, chiefly Wiggleworth, Bentham and Ingleton, and during the year approximately 3,300 tons of refuse were disposed of at these tips.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

N. FIRTH, M.R.S.I.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SEDBERGH

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In submitting details of the 1950 Annual Report I would refer chiefly to the following matters :

Water Supplies

The Council are responsible for the distribution of water to the town of Sedbergh and its environs and also the villages of Dent and Lea Gate, the remaining supplies being privately administered.

There are 11 milk Suppliers in the area.

Collected from an upland gathering ground, the supply to the town of Sedbergh is chlorinated and filtered, and consistent sampling has invariably proved this water to be excellent.

One other, (private), supply by British Railways and providing 16 houses at Garsdale Station is also chlorinated, and bacteriological analysis of samples taken from this supply have shown it to be satisfactory.

With the object of safeguarding the supply to Dent village, a chlorinating plant has been obtained from Messrs. Wallace and Tiernan. Owing to the abnormally wet summer and practical difficulties in reaching the site, the chlorination house for this plant has not yet been erected. This will be put in hand by the contractor instructed to carry out the work, as soon as conditions permit.

No major schemes of water extension have been carried out during the year, — one only, — that to the hamlet of Slack being contemplated. This presents peculiar difficulties from the view point of expense as compared with the number of properties proposed to be supplied, (five), there being no adequate supply available other than from a stream which should be chlorinated — added to which there is the question of the disposal of sewage from these properties.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal

There have been no sewer extensions during the past year, nor have any major sewage works improvements been carried out by the Council.

Plans for the installation of a small modern Sewage disposal works with rotary sprinkler to take the station's property and also sixteen houses adjacent to the station at Garsdale have been submitted by British Railways and approved.

This work, which includes the conversion of 16 E.C.s to the water carriage system, is in hand.

The unsatisfactory position with regard to the disposal of sewage from the village of Dent still obtains and is one which calls for early attention.

The question of surcharging by surplus water one of the sections of sewer in Sedbergh, and the provision of an adequate storm overflow to the river, also required early attention.

This will result in relieving the sewage works which are seriously overloaded, and should enable the sewage from the West End of Sedbergh including the laundry, to be put through the sewage works, instead of being land-treated as at present.

In connection generally with sewage disposal, it is to be noted, that, since the removal of a cheese factory, from Dent to Sedbergh, the most unsatisfactory conditions caused in the sewage field at Dent, attributable in no small degree to whey and whey washings, has been removed.

It is proposed that these whey washings from the newly re-opened factory will be land-treated in such a manner as to be virtually innocuous.

Six effluent samples have been taken from the Sedbergh Sewage works during the present year, and proved satisfactory.

I am happy to be able to say that no further ill-effects to the Sedbergh sewers or works resulted from the accidental discharge of tar into sewers previously reported on, — satisfactory in that it was problematical for some time as to what might have been the condition of the two duplicate syphons under the River Rawthay due to the deposit of tar in the pipes.

Surface reinstatement work, necessitated at the sewage works as a result of the above, has been carried out by the North West Regional Gas Board.

Housing

It is regrettable that this year has not seen the active commencement of the Council's building programme, — a combination of circumstances having seriously interfered with their endeavours in this direction.

It is gratifying, however, to note that sanction has now been given, and the Contract let for the erection of thirty-eight houses in Sedbergh, and eight at Dent.

By the re-housing, in part, of some of the eighty-six tenants occupying pre-fabricated huts, in the two estates Maryfell and Pinfold, this will to some extent, relieve the unsatisfactory conditions existing in those estates.

Two new houses built by private enterprise have been occupied during the year, and five repairs are in hand.

Representations have been made in respect of two dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation.

Three cases of overcrowding have been reported during the year, two of which have been relieved by the Council's action.

Two applications for Grant under the Housing Act, 1949 have been received, and while the intention behind this Act is admirable, it is suggested that it be administered with caution more especially as concerns the smaller authorities.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Supply

The functions of the local authority as concerns the above having virtually ceased as from 1st October, 1949, very little action has been called for during the past year.

There is one licensed retailer of T.T. Milk in this area, (non-Producer).

While routine inspections are made from time to time no action has been necessary.

Various amounts of unsound food have, however, been condemned from ration premises. These include bacon, tinned foods etc.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council's contract with the West Riding Agricultural Executive Committee having expired, the Council are now themselves responsible for disinfecting all land or works under their direct control.

Routine test-baiting and poisoning of the Council's two refuse tips and sewage works have been carried out by Council employees.

There are no "reservoir" breeding places in this area.

Routine test baitings of an agreed proportion of sewer man-holes in Sedbergh and at Dent have also been carried out, with negative results.

Scavenging and Cleansing

The collection of refuse by the Council from the towns of Sedbergh, Dent, and Gawthrop has been maintained, one further extension only between the villages of Dent and Lea Gate having been undertaken during the year.

Pending the conversion to the water-carriage system of the sixteen houses at Garsdale, it has not been thought advisable to commence between Sedbergh and Garsdale, but this will be put in hand as soon as the above conversions are completed.

With a view to serving the district to better advantage, one central tip at a point on the Garsdale road approximately one and a half miles out of Sedbergh has commenced.

Space has been reserved on the Busk Lane Sedbergh tip for emergency use under adverse weather conditions only.

I am, Sir, Your Obedient Servant,

FRED J. LAWSON, M.S.I.A.

APPENDIX III.

ATTENDANCE AT CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

Centre								Children Under 1 year.	Children 2 - 5 years
Expectant Mothers									
Ingleton	...	...	...	...	...	...	----	346	464
Gisburn	...	...	...	...	...	...	----	74	106
Bentham	...	...	...	...	...	...	----	382	257
Settle	...	...	...	...	...	...	----	225	288
Waddington	...	...	...	...	...	...	----	228	200
Sedbergh	...	...	...	...	...	...	----	46	52
Total								1301	1367

APPENDIX IV.

RESULTS OF SCHOOLS INSPECTION

Defect or Disease		Periodical Inspections		Special Inspections	
		Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observ'n.	Requiring Treatm't.	Requiring Observ'n.
Skin		15	1	5	—
Eyes — [a] Vision		50	2	14	1
	[b] Squint	8	—	3	1
	[c] Other	1	—	—	—
Ears — [a] Hearing		1	1	2	—
	[b] Otitis Media	5	7	3	—
	[c] Other	1	—	—	—
Nose or Throat		23	11	16	—
Speech		2	—	1	—
Cervical Glands		2	9	—	1
Heart and Circulation		5	3	3	2
Lungs		5	5	3	3
Developmental					
	[a] Hernia	—	—	—	—
	[b] Other	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic					
	[a] Posture	4	2	1	2
	[b] Flat foot	3	—	—	—
	[c] Other	21	12	10	4
Nervous system					
	[a] Epilepsy	—	—	2	—
	[b] Other	—	1	—	—
Psychological					
	[a] Development	1	1	4	1
	[b] Stability	10	2	1	—
Other Defects		13	1	5	—

In 6,463 Inspections 115 pupils were found infested with vermin.

APPENDIX V.

LIST OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1950

				Under	Over
				16	16
Statutory Supervision					
	Male			4	9
	Female			8	8
Friendly Supervision					
	Male			—	—
	Female			—	1
Guardianship					
	Male			—	—
	Female			—	2

LIST OF STAFF

Divisional Medical Officer

D. P. Lambert, M.D., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer

J. C. Goldthorpe, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., until February 1950.

Social Worker in Mental Health

E. Hattersley, DIP. SOC. SCI.

Sanitary Inspectors :

BowlandR. R. OVEREND, M.S.I.A. M.R.S.I.

SedberghF. J. LAWSON, M.S.I.A.

SettleN. FIRTH, Cert. S.I.B.

B. ROBINSON, A.R. San. I.

Health Visitors

BowlandH. HAWORTH, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

SedberghS. A. SIMM, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

SettleI. C. G. HARRISON, S.R.N. S.C.M. H.V.

IngletonE. WATTS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

HellifieldR. C. DRUMMOND, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORTS : STATISTICAL ABSTRACT

NOTICES SERVED

	Bowland	Sedbergh	Settle
Statutory Notices Served	—	3	21
Statutory Notices Complied with	—	2	17
Informal Notices Served	87	18	83
Informal Notices Complied with	80	15	62
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES			
Inspections made	7	8	9
Disinfections carried out	10	8	5
PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES			
Inspections made	96	74	87
Nuisances found	78	8	47
Nuisances abated	73	3	45
OFFENSIVE TRADES			
Registered premises	1	—	—
Inspections made	10	—	—
Unsatisfactory conditions found	—	—	—
TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS			
Inspections made	38	—	7
Unsatisfactory conditions found	—	—	—

	Bowland	Sedbergh	Settle
RIVERS AND STREAMS			
Complaints from Rivers Pollution Board	—	—	—
Inspections made	17	—	—
Unsatisfactory conditions found ...	2	—	—
BAKEHOUSES			
Registered Bakehouses	3	5	14
Inspections made	6	8	17
Unsatisfactory conditions found ...	—	—	1
SHOPS ACT 1934			
Registered Premises	—	53	233
Inspections made	42	24	56
Unsatisfactory Conditions Found	1	—	1
MILK RETAILERS			
Registered Milk Retailers	—	1	43
Inspections made	23	8	36
Unsatisfactory Conditions Found	1	—	—
WATER SUPPLIES			
A. Public Water Supplies Council			
Owned :-			
Inspections made	20	65	63
Samples taken for Bacteriological Analysis	15	19	62
Samples taken for Chemical Analysis	—	—	1
B. Public Water Supplies Privately Owned			
Inspections made	49	4	23
Samples taken for Bacteriological Analysis	34	1	23
Samples taken for Chemical Analysis	3	—	—
C. Private Water Supplies, Single properties			
Inspections made	24	33	51
Samples taken for Bacteriological Analysis	23	26	49
Samples taken for Chemical Analysis	—	—	2
HOUSING			
Inspections made	32	358	311
Unsatisfactory conditions found ...	9	20	112
New cases of overcrowding	4	2	4
New houses erected	4	3	32
Licenses issued for housing, including repairs	20	6	21
DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION			
Inspections made	111	88	164
Unsatisfactory conditions found ...	42	5	45
Repairs to drains, including clearing	36	14	45
New septic tanks built	9	8	—
Closets improved	43	—	31
SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND FOOD INSPECTIONS			
Licensed Slaughter houses	3	—	2
Inspections made	82	—	173
Amount of Food condemned in lbs.			
Meat ...	1,844	22	37,660
Fish ...	—	—	—
Other ...	7	45	168
FOOD PRODUCTION, INCLUDING ICE CREAM			
Premises registered	25	8	21
Inspections made	106	14	35
Unsatisfactory Conditions found ...	2	—	—
Samples taken	22	—	22

	Bowland	Sedbergh	Settle
FACTORIES ACT			
Registered Premises	29	32	137
Inspections made	24	18	65
Unsatisfactory conditions found ...	1	—	6
RODENT CONTROL			
Inspections made	57	53	119
Sites test baited	12	3	16
Maintenance treatments carried out	6	3	67
SCAVENGING			
Inspections made	129	58	602
Unsatisfactory conditions found ...	38	27	30
New refuse bins provided	27	—	—

APPENDIX

WATER SUPPLIES BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS REPORTS

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
BOWLAND		
Gisburn	5	—
Grindleton	5	—
Newton in Bowland	2	—
Rimington	1	—
Tosside	2	—
Private Supplies, single properties	13	10
SEDBERGH		
Dent	1	—
Lea Gate	5	2
Sedbergh	5	4
Private Supplies, Single properties	15	11
SETTLE		
Airton	—	2
Austwick	2	—
High Bentham	2	5
Low Bentham	4	—
Burton-in-Lonsdale	3	2
Clapham	—	3
Cold Cotes	—	3
Hellifield	2	4
Horton-in-Ribblesdale	—	4
Ingleton	5	1
Keasden	2	—
Kirkby Malham [Proctor's]	—	1
Langcliffe	1	4
Long Preston	3	2
Malham [Atkinson's]	2	—
Masongill	1	1
Newby	1	2
Rathmell	3	—
Settle High Level	7	2
Settle Low Level	5	—
Stainforth	3	1
Westhouse	2	1
Private Supplies, Single properties	18	31

